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Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicant asserts that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garrett (WO 98/35469) in view of Li (US 6,067,568). Applicant respectfully opposes these rejections as the references fail to teach (alone or in combination) all the limitations within the claims as now amended.

Figure 16.2 shows the runtime environment of one embodiment of the invention. An active server page ("GLOBAL.ASA") includes logic whereby if the web site visitor is a 'site server user' then the user framework uses a SITE SERVER USER 1632 component. Otherwise, if the web site visitor is not a 'site server user', then the user framework uses a DATABASE USER 1634 component. Under the present invention, the sole user framework "supports two approaches [(i.e., site server users and regular users)] by exposing a single set of interfaces that can be used by either of the two user framework components" (page 128, lines 1-3). As claimed in the independent claims 1, 6 and 11, the invention enables "an e-commerce web site to manage user information for both site server users and regular web site users".

Element (a) of the claims provide the site server, which has "a membership directory component with directory information stored thereon ... identifying the users". This element is shown in figure 16.2, within the SITE SERVER block to the right of the USER FRAMEWORK block.

Element (b) provides a database "separate from the membership directory component of the site server, the database having table information stored in a plurality of database tables ... identifying the users". This element is shown in figure 16.2, within the ORACLE / SQL SERVER DBMS block at the bottom of the drawing.

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Element (c) provides "authenticating an identity of one of the users with an active server page, for determining whether the user is a site server user or a regular web site user". This element is shown in the GLOBAL.ASA block in figure 16.2, where an "IF / THEN / ELSE" statement is used depending on whether the user is a site server user or a regular web site user.

Element (d) provides "a single interface framework of components which provides user information access by both site server users and regular web site users". As discussed starting on page 127, line 25, the user framework exposes "a single set of interfaces that can be used by either of the two user framework components" (i.e., a site server user component 1632 that interfaces with the site server, or a database user component 1634 that interfaces with a database).

Element (e) allows a site server user to "view and change the information identifying the user that is stored on the membership directory component of the site server".

Element (f) allows "regular web site users to view and change the information identifying the user that is stored on the plurality of database tables in the database".

The references Garrett and Li (alone or in combination) do not teach each of the limitations of the independent claims and therefore Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at 612-607-7508.

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If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Docket 060021-329601).

Respectfully submitted,



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